LAURA ANN SEATON.

FEBRUARY 29, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PATTERSON, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 4349.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4349) granting an increase of pension to Laura Ann Seaton, have examined the same and report:

This bill as amended proposes to increase from $8 to $12 per month the pension of Laura Ann Seaton, of Denver, Colo., widow of Uriah C. Seaton, late of Company K, One hundred and forty-sixth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

Soldier enlisted September 13, 1864, and was honorably discharged July 8, 1865. During service he bore the rank of private. He filed and established a claim under the general law, and at time of his death, which occurred July 15, 1898, he was a pensioner at the rate of $25 per month for deafness incurred during his service. The cause of his death was Bright's disease of the kidneys.

Laura Ann Seaton, the claimant under this bill, is the lawful widow of the soldier, and was married to him April 29, 1859. She is now receiving the pension of $8 per month provided by the act of June 27, 1890. She can obtain no pension at the Bureau under the general law for the reason that she is unable to prove that her husband's death was the result of his military service.

Mrs. Seaton is 63 years of age. The evidence on file shows her to be in destitute circumstances, without property or means of support except her pension. She is almost totally blind, being unable to see to work or even find her way about the streets unattended. She was the wife of the soldier during the period of his service, and your committee, in view of all the facts, recommend an increase of her pension to $12 per month, which is the rate she would receive if she could prove that her husband's death resulted from his military service.

The bill is therefore reported back favorably with a recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 8 strike out the word "thirty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "twelve."

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